

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A scanning optical apparatus includes incident optical system for causing at least one light beam emitted from a light source to be incident on a

5 deflection device and image formation optical system including at least one refractive optical element and at least one diffraction optical element for imaging said at least one light beam reflected and deflected by the deflection device on a surface to be scanned. The

10 diffraction optical element has at least one of an incident surface having a convex shape in a sub-scanning cross-section facing the deflection device and an exit surface having a convex shape in the sub-scanning cross-section facing the surface to be scanned.